

Message Text

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PARIS FOR DEA

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TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL SEMI-ANNUAL
REPORTING REQUIREMENT UNDER SECTION 481 OF
FAA: AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 083179 (NOTAL)

1. ILLICIT NARCOTICS SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN: WITH
AN ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 375 METRIC
TONS OF OPIUM GUM IN 1977, AFGHANISTAN IS NOW PRO-
BABLY THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCER OF ILLICIT OPIUM.
THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) IS COOPERATING
WITH THE UN DIVISION OF NARCOTICS DRUGS IN IMPROVING
THE CAPABILITIES OF AFGHAN POLICE AND CUSTOMS AUTHORI-
TIES TO INTERDICT THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS.
ADDITIONALLY, THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IS
DEVELOPING IN THE UPPER HELMAND DISTRICT OF AFGHANIS-
TAN A PILOT PROJECT OF CROP SUBSTITUTION AND INCOME
REPLACEMENT WHICH UNFEDAC HOPES WILL LEAD TOWARD LARGER-SCALE
OPIUM ERADICATION PROGRAMS IN THE MAJOR PRODUC-
TION REGIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF NANGARHAR AND
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PAGE 02 KABUL 02765 130551Z

KONAR. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO INC OR USAID ANTI-
NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN, THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY, WHICH INCLUDES AN ABLE AND ACTIVE DEA
SECTION, IS ASSISTING THESE UN EFFORTS THROUGH
DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT, US- ARRANGED TRAINING PROGRAMS,
AND DEA'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
OPERATIONS. STATE AND DEA OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY

ALSO PARTICIPATE WITH UN REPRESENTATIVES AND AFGHAN OFFICIALS IN THE GOA'S JOINT COMMISSION ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS MATTERS.

2. THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOA TO OPIUM CONTROL APPEARS TO BE STRONG. PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD HAS ASSURED SEVERAL PROMINENT AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT HE INTENDS TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM. DURING THE CURRENT CROP SEASON, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOA HAS DESTROYED SEVERAL ACRES OF OYUUM POPPIES IN THE UPPER AND CENTRAL HELMAND REGIONS (A LARGE USAID PROJECT IN THE LATTER AREA IS COVERED BY A US-AFGHAN ANTI-OPIUM AGREEMENT), AND IMPRISONED A LARGE-SCALE POPPY GROWER NEAR LASHKARGAH AS AN OBJECT LESSON. HOWEVER, THE GOA HAS BEEN LESS SUCCESSFUL AT OPIUM CONTROL IN THE MORE REMOTE TRIBAL REGIONS OF THE EASTERN PROVINCES. SCHEDULED USAID FINANCING FOR A SMALL IRRIGATION PROJECT IN THAT AREA. AT DAUG JUI IN KONAR PROVINCE, HAD TO BE CANCELLED RECENTLY BECAUSE THE GOA HAD FAILED TO HAVE OPIUM POPPIES DESTROYED THERE BEFORE THEY ARRIVED AT HARVESTING MATURITY.

3. INC ASSISTANCE: NO INC ASSISTANCE WAS USED IN AFGHANISTAN DURING THE PAST HALF YEAR. THERE ALSO HAVE NOT BEEN ANY USAID ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS HERE.
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PAGE 03 KABUL 02765 130551Z

THE DEA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT PARIS PROVIDES DEA/KABUL WITH FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE UN ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN. WHENEVER S/NM, DEA, OR THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE SUPPORT TRAVEL AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AFGHAN OFFICIALS, THE BOOK-KEEPING IS HANDLED AT WASHINGTON. THE EMBASSY REMAINS ALERT, HOWEVER, TO POSSIBLE PROJECTS WHICH COULD BENEFIT FROM INC SUPPORT. ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE THE SUPPLY OF VEHICLES, RADIOS, AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE ADDITIONAL AFGHAN ANTI-SMUGGLING UNITS (ASUS) NOW BEING ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF UN EXPERTS. AS THIS UN-ENCOURAGED PROGRAM DEVELOPS, THE EMBASSY WILL EVALUATE AND REPORT ITS NEEDS.
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